

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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P R 221958Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5041
INFO DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2165

STATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS PINTO, PGOV, AR
SUBJECT UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO US BY EX PLANNING MINISTER

1. AMBASSADOR WAS VISITED ON 16 MARCH BY ARMY MAJOR
GENERAL RAMON DIAZ BESSONE, EX PLANNING MINISTER.

SINCE BEING REPLACED LAST DECEMBER HE HAS BEEN
ASSIGNED TO THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS WITH NO SPECIFIC
DUTIES. THE PURPOSE OF THE GENERALS CALL WAS TO
INFORM AMBASSADOR OF HIS IMMINENT UNOFFICIAL , AND A
APPARENTLY COMPLETELY PERSONALLY FUNDED, TRIP TO THE US AND EUROPE
AND TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING WITH PROMINENT US
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS.

2. ALTHOUGH DIAZ BESSONE IS IN POLITICAL LIMBO AT THIS TIME, HE
REMAINS A YOUNG, VIGOROUS, AND AMBITIOUS MAN WHO
MAY CONTINUE TO BE INFLUENTIAL FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE ARMY. AS THE FOUNDER AND HEAD OF THE
ARGENTINE FOUNDATION FOR THE YEAR 2000 WITH CHAPTERS
THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA HE ALREADY HAS AN ORGANIZATION
THAT COULD SERVE AS A LAUNCHING PLATFORM FOR HIS OWN
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POLITICAL CAREER OR COULD BE USED IN SUPPORT OF ANOTHER
CANDIDATE. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE GENERAL MIGHT
WELL BE ON HIS WAY OUT, IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE IF ASST
SECRETARY TODMAN COULD RECIEVE HIM. HE MET BOB
ZIMMERMAN AND MAJOR GENERAL CAVAZOS IN NEW YORK LAST
YEAR AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM AGAIN. INSTEAD OF
CAVAZOS, WHO IS NOW STATIONED IN WASHINGTON STATE,

PERHAPS YOU COULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO MEET HIS
REPLACEMENT AT OSD/ISA, REAR ADMIRAL SCHULLER.
OTHER PERSON WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH
THE GENERAL ARE LUIGI EINAUDI (ARA) AND JIM BUCHANAN (INR)
AND WAYNE SMITH (CUBAN AFFAIRS). DATT IS ALSO CABLING
LTG SUMNER, CHAIRMAN OF INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD,
ABOUT POSSIBLE MEETINGS WITH MILITARY OFFICIALS.

3. DIAZ BESSONE DEPARTS BUENOS AIRES FOR NEW YORK ON
24 MARCH. HE WILL STAY WITH RELATIVES IN NEW JERSEY
FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND THEN WILL VISIT WASHINGTON
FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS. SOMETIME AFTER MID MAY HE
WILL GO TO EUROPE FOR ABOUT A MONTH RETURNING TO BUENOS
AIRES IN LATE JUNE. WHILE IN NEW YORK HE CAN BE REACHED
THROUGH THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS OR
OR AT 1094 ANDERSON AVE., FT LEE NJ. 07024, TEL.
(201) 229 2393. WHILE IN WASHINGTON HE MAY BE A GUEST
IN ARMY ATTACHE BG SIGWALDS HOME AND CAN BE REACHED
THROUGH ARGENTINE EMBASSY.
CASTRO

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